

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically configuring devices in a network, comprising:

- a) the method associating preconfigured defined policy settings with physical locations in the network, the preconceived policy settings associated with each physical location in the network being usable to configure network devices at the physical location to function on the network;
- b) automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network; and
automatically determining a physical location of the new network device in the network; and
- c) automatically configuring the new network device based on the preconfigured policy settings associated with the corresponding physical location of the new network device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~(a)~~ associating preconfigured policy settings with physical locations in the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the steps of: displaying a configuration screen that allows the user to create different policy settings that specify what configuration actions are to be taken.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~step (a)~~ associating preconfigured policy settings with physical locations in the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the steps of saving the policy settings in a database.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of: detecting and locating the network device ~~by transmitting SNMP queries from a router to the~~ a plurality of switches that traverse the network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically determining a physical location of the new network device in the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of determining which port on the network the new network device is plugged into.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network further ~~comprises~~ includes the step of: detecting any combination of newly added devices including routers, switches, computers, and server blades.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network further ~~comprises~~ includes the step of: detecting processor blades and switches added to existing server blades.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step (c)~~ automatically configuring the new network device based on the preconfigured policy settings associated with the physical location of the new network device further ~~comprising: includes the step of:~~

retrieving from a database the preconfigured policy settings associated with the ~~port~~ physical location of the new network device.

Please cancel claims 9 - 24.

(Cancelled) Claim 9 - 24